Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 1 Dec., 1864.

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My Dear Garrison,

A letter from Mr. May, received some days since, apprized me of your conclusion and that of the Ex. Committee in relation to the proposal to unite the Liberator and Standard; and now I have yours of the 26th ult., giving the reasons for that conclusion. It is quite true that I had expected you would reach a different result, and am therefore, to that extent, disappointed. But I am not, by any means, so confident of the soundness of my own opinion as to be unimpressed by yours and that of other members of the Committee. Indeed I will confess that there is great weight in the reasons which you have assigned for

declining the alliance; and more than
all, I have great faith in your instinct
in regard to a matter which so deeply
concerns yourself and the cause. A
faith which makes me distrustful of
my own judgment. Having made the
proposition and pressed it upon your
attention and that of the Committee from
no private or personal motive whatever,
but solely from a regard for the cause,
and in the hope of relieving you from a
burden which I feared was likely to
shorten your life, I have fulfilled what
I felt was a duty, and thereby relieved
myself of all responsibility in the case; and
therefore I have no ground for personal mortification
or regret in view of your conclusion. I am
sure I obeyed a right impulse, and that
good will somehow result from the act.
You do me no more than simple justice
in assuming that I wanted nothing done
that did not, after careful reflection,

commend itself to your judgment and feelings. In all that I have said and done, I have kept constantly in view the fact that the question was one which, in the very nature of things, would be, and ought to be, at last, decided according to your feelings and wishes; and it has been my simple object to lay before you such facts and arguments as seemed to me worthy of your attention. It is enough that you have weighed those facts and arguments, as I believe with perfect candor and impartiality, and formed your conclusion.

There is not another man in all the world who commands so much of my love, confidence and veneration as yourself; no other in whose opinions I so uniformly coincide. On almost every question which has arisen in the progress of the anti-slavery cause during the last thirty years, I have found myself, by instinct (and often without opportunity for consultation with you), forming the same conclusions with yourself, and seeing eye to eye with you. That in one particular instance we differ in judgment is not strange, and I am in this case inclined to distrust my own opinion

rather than yours. It is the joy of my life that I have been permitted to know you and to be your humble co-worker in the anti-slavery cause. How much I am indebted to you I deeply feel, and there is hardly any sacrifice that I would not gladly make if I could thereby add to the sum of your usefulness or happiness, or remove any burden from your mind or body.

I fear that, on one point you have misunderstood me. In what I have said as to the value set upon your own writings by the readers of the Liberator, I have not intended to deny or undervalue the merits of the paper in other respects. Far, very far, am I from doing that. Indeed I regard you as one of the very best editors in the world, and I greatly admire your selections, as I believe your readers generally do; but I still think that your writings are the one feature which, more than any or all others, attracts readers to the Liberator; and I believe that, if they could get two columns from your pen where you now write one, they would be willing

to accept the selections of the Standard in place of those of the Liberator, even while regarding them as inferior. My idea, moreover, was, that, by your advice and aid, the united papers might be made more like the Liberator than the Standard now is, or ought to be. Don't think I meant to deny you "tact and talent" for making an interesting sheet. In fact, the Liberator, in view of the circumstances disadvantages under which you conduct it, is to me, for "tact and talent," a marvel every week. I always find myself comparing it with the Standard, to the disparagement of the latter.

I fear you are too sanguine in regard to the action of Congress, at the next session about to commence, upon the Constitutional Amendment; but time will show. The rapid march of events in the last four years may well inspire a strong hope that the present Congress will pass the Amendment; but if it should not, then I hope the President will summon the new Congress to meet on the 5th of March in special session, that the measure

may be put through at the earliest possible day.

Is'nt our old friend Joe Barker cutting a pretty figure just now! What a scoundrel he is, and how lost to all sense of shame!

I presume you have heard ere this of the death of our beloved and venerated friend, Thomas Whitson. His departure makes the next world seem more attractive than it did before. What a head and heart were his!

Samuel J. May looked in upon me to-day, and "took sweet counsel" with him for an hour. He is in a very hopeful and happy frame of mind and very charitable in his judgment of the Administration.

Has Dr. Main undertaken your wife's case? and if so, is his treatment doing her good? I hope so.

Mary Anne joins me in love to you, Helen and the whole household.

Once more, my dear Garrison, I subscribe myself,

Yours, in life or death,

Oliver Johnson